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CET 13-60
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1 FEB 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence Headquarters, USAF

ATTENTION: AFCIN 1B2

SUBJECT: Evaluation of USAF Aerial Photographic Collection Programs

REFERENCE: USAF Letter of 7 December 1959 (SH 0505-9) from Col. Harold L. Kreider, Director of Collection

1. The following evaluation, based on responses from the Intelligence Production Offices of the Central Intelligence Agency, was prepared in answer to the letter cited above.

2. In general, the programs have provided the Central Intelligence Agency with important sources of new information, served as collateral for information derived from other sources, and as sources for checking the creditability of overt and covert sources. The materials have further provided background planning data for requirements and collection operations, and also have enabled us to maintain a general surveillance of various target areas in the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

3. Program Evaluations

25X1A a. [redacted]

25X1A [redacted]

25X6

25X1A

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25X6 [redacted]

25X1A [redacted]

25X1A The [redacted] Program, although more limited than [redacted] in volume,
25X1A has proved valuable in many ways. In certain cases this material has provided
real primary aerial coverage of portions of the Sino-Soviet Bloc, and therefore
primary photographic intelligence data of value in geographic and cultural
studies. Valuable information pertaining to guided missile and support
facilities, as well as defense concepts in the vicinity of Moscow has been
obtained from this program. Potential sites for deployment of IRBM and ICBM
have been studied. Background data has also been obtained for possible
25X1A operations in the Baltic area. Prior to [redacted] there was little or no
definitive information on industrial and urban development in many parts of
the USSR. This material was used in the compilation of several urban town
plans and provided the most definitive source material available on Noril'sk,
Nakhodka and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. This material has also provided intelligence
25X9 data on long-range airfields [redacted]
25X9 [redacted]

25X1A [redacted]

25X1C [redacted] photography has been of considerable
value in the preparation of immediate information reports as well as in the
preparation of formal reports issued by this organization. During periods of
active military operation primary emphasis was placed on surveillance of the
Taiwan Straits area. Other items reported on have included possible missile
research and development in the Shanghai area, shipbuilding activity at
Shanghai and Wuchang and the Chinese aircraft industry. With the increased
emphasis now being placed on intelligence of China there will be an increase
in requirements for further exploitation of all programs. The penetration
25X1A missions [redacted] will become of special value since they have provided
25X1B coverage in areas [redacted]
25X1B
25X1D

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25X1A
25X1C

[redacted]

5. The results of the evaluations requested by your organization indicate a need for these aerial photographic collection programs to be continued. We appreciate the opportunity afforded the Central Intelligence Agency to prepare these evaluations.

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL
Director,
Photographic Intelligence Center

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